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Georgian *intelligentsia*, who have been only too ready to lend their expert aid to one who has shown so real an affection for their country.

The ground Mr. Allen has covered in this work is so extensive that matters of interest will be found in it for many besides the student of history: for he has illuminating chapters on the social organization of Mediæval Georgia—a subject hitherto quite inaccessible to the comparative sociologist in Europe; on the customs and habits of the Georgians between the ninth and the eighteenth centuries; on their trade relations with neighbouring countries; and on Georgian mediæval art in which he indicates the interplay of Armenian, Byzantine, and Russian influences.

The historical chapters cover a long period of time: beginning with the rich copper and Early Iron Age cultures of the Caucasus, he passes to the history of the Georgian Kingdom which emerged as an important political entity at the beginning of the tenth century. It is all new history, and very fascinating reading it makes. The Georgian Kingdom of the eleventh–thirteenth centuries emerges as a cultural fact as important in the history of the Middle Ages as the Kingdom of Sicily to which Mr. Allen compares it. We see in the Georgian Bagratids a ruling family as influential in the history of Western Asia as the Angevins were in the Mediterranean, and in the great figure of David the Restorer we see a figure of the type of the early Norman kings. Mr. Allen describes in vivid language the glories of the "Caucasian Kingdom" of Queen Tamara (until now hardly more than a legendary figure to European historians), and the long tragedy of the decline of the Georgian Kingdom during the century of Mongol hegemony.

The succeeding chapters in which Mr. Allen unravels the intricate history of the three contending Georgian Kingdoms during the fifteenth–eighteenth centuries are not only novel and valuable in themselves, but they throw a new light on many aspects of Russian, Persian and Turkish history. The great merit of Mr. Allen as an historian is that he keeps his subject in perspective, and he shows an amazing insight into the contemporary history of neighbouring states.

These historical chapters form the main body of Mr. Allen's book and to none will they be more welcome than to the student of Islamic history, especially in connection with the minor dynasties which ruled in North-Western Persia during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Particularly interesting

are his researches, for instance, on the influence of Georgian factions at the Persian court during the two crises of the Safavid dynasty. 121

It is interesting to find a young man of such adventurous and varied interests prepared to devote himself to serious research work in an age which has earned a reputation for frivolity and self-indulgence, and it can only be a source of gratification to his countrymen that Mr. Allen should have filled this important lacuna in our historial literature and that it was left to an Englishman to do for Georgia what H. F. B. Lynch did for Armenia and Mr. Baddeley for the history of Russian relations with Mongolia. 000

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

121 SOME ten years ago I was invited by Lord Edward Gleichen 127 to contribute sections on Georgia and Caucasian Azerbaijan to an historical series which he was then engaged in editing. In the course of preparing the brief survey of the modern political history of the Caucasus which was required of me,[1] I was impressed by the lack of any accessible work on Georgian history, either in English or indeed in any West European language. Marie-Félicité Brosset laid the foundation of modern Georgian historical studies, and to him both Georgian and European students must always remain in debt. But Brosset was essentially an editor of materials, and his voluminous publications are scarcely palatable either to the lay reader or to the student of other cultures who may have only a relative interest in Georgia. Baddeley's excellent account of the Russian conquest of the Caucasus covers a particular field, and only incidentally the political history of Georgia contemporary with the conquest. The present work, therefore, has been constructed within very definite limits. It is based on a summary and analysis of the source-materials published by Brosset, supplemented by more recent studies in Georgian and Russian, which—difficult to obtain—have, some of them, become available to me only after the completion of the manuscript of this book. I have taken the period of the suppression of the Georgian Kingdom by the Russians as a suitable point at which to make an end, and Baddeley's *Russian Conquest of the Caucasus* thus becomes supplementary for the earlier part of the nineteenth century. The time has not yet come, nor are the materials available, to attempt the history of Georgia during the last three-quarters of a century.

121 Within the limits set, there are certain wide *lacunæ*. The chapters on the pre-history of Georgia are really introductory to the body of the book, rather than sufficient in themselves, for I have neither the archæological nor the philological qualifications necessary to the serious study of the earlier

[1] Published in a volume entitled *The Baltic and Caucasian States*, in Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton's series, *Nations of Today* (London, 1923).

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121 periods. I have, however, included in the bibliographical sections a list of works in Russian and Georgian, which may be of assistance to the student who would proceed further in this field. It is indeed a field which merits exploration, and a student with the requisite qualifications and the necessary leisure should supplement, in the Caucasus, the great work of critical research which Ellis Minns and Rostovtseff have already accomplished for South Russia and the Crimea.

I have also dealt only in the most cursory way with the political history of the Iberian and Albanian Kingdoms during the first six centuries A.D. I have passed thus over this period, because to approach it at all adequately would have necessitated much specialized research. The history of these Kingdoms, and also of the relations of the Roman and Persian Empires in the Caucasus, is a subject which itself calls for prolonged and fundamental study.

In regard to the transliteration of Georgian and other foreign names and words, I have to offer my excuses to the stickler in these matters. I have been engaged in writing this book over a period of nine years, in various places and under varying conditions, and at different times I have come under the influence of different schools of thought in the matter of transliteration. At one moment I went to some expense in engaging the services of a specialist to systematize the spelling of all names in the book on the most approved recent method. Unfortunately, this gentleman, before he could complete the work, accepted an academic appointment abroad, and I found it impracticable to adopt his ideas without his personal
121 assistance. I have therefore attempted, at the last moment,
104 to systematize the spelling, particularly of Georgian names, on a phonetic basis, which I hope will prove comprehensible to the English reader. In the case of Georgian proper names, the laws of euphony in the Georgian language provide that all proper names terminate in a vowel. Where that vowel is an -i, the -i is dropped before a qualifying noun or ordinal numeral, thus :—King Wakhtangi = *Mépé Wakhtangi*, but Wakhtang the King = *Wakhtang Mépé*: Wakhtang the Georgian Lion = *Wakhtang Gurgaslani*; King David = *Mépé Daviti*, but David II = *Davit Méoré*, David the Restorer = *Davit Aghmashenebeli*. I have followed this rule in transliterating Georgian names into English, as it seems to me to suit the peculiar euphony of the Georgian language, even when the names are read in an English context. In the case of a few

names, such as Giorgi and Dmitri, this rule does not apply— for obvious reasons of euphony. 121 104

In the case of certain names, such as David, Alexander and Constantine, I have, for no particular reason, adopted the English form—I think generally because it happens to be more pleasing to the eye. There is, of course, a precedent to follow in this matter, as, for instance, the use in English books of the Russian *Ivan* for John, but of Peter and Paul instead of *Petr* and *Pavl*. In regard to Georgian place-names I have always used the Georgian form in preference to the Russianized form—e.g. Kakheti and not Kakhetia (which should, if anything, be Kakhia), Kartli and not Kartalinia. Exception has been made in the case of completely Latinized forms such as Tiflis for Tpilisi, Kutais for Kutaisi, Mingrelia for Samégrélo, Somkheti for Somkhiti. I have also used the Georgian words *mta* (mountain), *tba* (lake) and *tsqali* (river), both in the text and in the maps, in preference to the later Turkish *dagh*, *göl*, and *su* or *chai*.

There are, I suppose, few authors who would not like to rewrite their books, as there can be few men who would not appreciate the opportunity of re-living their lives. I recognize that this book is in certain respects disjointed. This fact arises from the circumstances under which it has been put together. There are a few passages which tend to be repetitive. The treatment of the subject, which is—of intent—horizontal rather than chronological is responsible for this fault, and the obscurity of the subject has induced me to risk, here and there, a certain repetition, in order to attempt greater clarity of exposition. 121

I am indebted to many friends and to many institutions for their kindness, toleration and help. I shall not, indeed, attempt to mention all those to whom I have placed myself under obligation during the last nine years. I am indebted to the authorities and institutions of the Georgian S.S.R. for many courtesies and favours during my stay in Georgia. In particular I should mention the officials of Tiflis University and of the Centralni Arkhiv Department. I am also indebted to the Turkish authorities for facilities, not usually accorded, during my stay in the eastern vilayets, and I have to record my gratitude for the long and generous hospitality of H.B.M. Consul at Trebizond, Mr. W. D. W. Matthews, and of Ihsan Bey Nemli-zadé, a resident of that city.

To the Biblioteca Communale of Palermo I am indebted for permission to photograph and use a number of Castelli's ooo

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The Japhetids of the Caucasus occupy on the peninsula an area approximately similar in form to a triangle, the base of which is on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, and its apex approaching the northwestern part of the Caspian Sea. They are composed of the following groups: (1) the Northwest group, or the Western mountaineers, comprising the Adighe nation, with subdivisions of Circassians and Kabardians, Ubych, and Abkhazes; (2) the Northeast group, composed of the Chechen and Lesghian groups or the mountaineers of Daghestan; and (3) in the Southwest, the Georgian nation, with subdivisions of Georgians proper, Megrelians, Svans, and Lazes.

Among all these three groups live the Ossetes, a people who belong linguistically to the Indo-Germanic branch, and show, excepting their language, close similarity to the above-mentioned peoples of the Caucasus. Taking into consideration this fact and the time of their appearance in the Caucasus, we are fully justified in treating them in our discussion together with the peoples of the Caucasus, although not counting them as related to these peoples.

Not only by their language do the peoples of the Caucasus attract the attention of investigators, but also by their customs, manner of life, beliefs and historic past, which show such peculiarities that they are of great interest for study and investigation.

Our aim in this work is to discuss the conditions of social life and customs practiced among the four small groups of the Georgian nation, who, secluded for many centuries in almost inaccessible defiles of the mountains, still preserve their peculiar customs, which have drawn the attention of many investigators who visited the country. These groups are: the Khevsurs, Pshavs and Tushes in the east, and the Svans in the west.

Their exact number is not known, although there is much statistical data giving different figures. For example, an interesting fact is brought out by the Russian investigator, Gurko-Kriajin,[4] concerning the Khevsurs. This author shows the contradiction in the statistical data concerning the number of

[4] Gurko-Kriajin: 270.